

Summary of Water Quality Partnership meeting of May 17

1. David Roberts presented a summary of the results of the workload analysis and prioritization of TMDLs based on the 1998 303(d) list. The analysis reflects what has been learned in the last 6 years of TMDL development. The full text of the report can be found at : <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0103018.html>.
2. Stephen Bernath presented a recommendation for the rule making on permit fees that will begin in July. The basic recommendation included raising all existing permit fees to the amount allowable under I-601, the fiscal growth factor. In addition, there was a recommendation to add a wet weather stormwater permit fee and a fee for application of aquatic pesticides. The partnership suggested the department take a second look at the wet weather stormwater permit fee. The presentation can be found at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/partnership/05_17_01/index.html.
3. Melodie Selby gave an information presentation on the status of the operator certification program. The information documented the results of the rule making process about 1.5 years ago and the benefits of modernizing the operator tests such as increased passing of tests. Melodie also indicated that the advisory committee for operator certification is recommending that the continuing education requirements be revised. The presentation can be found at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/partnership/05_17_01/index.html.
4. Stephen Bernath gave a summary presentation on the draft strategic plan. The draft plan can be found on the website at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/partnership/05_17_01/index.html. The program is asking for comments from external stakeholders by May 29 at close of business.
5. Dave Peeler and Mark Hicks gave an update of what a use-based system might look like and how bull trout might be included as a new use. They identified that there will be a workshop on June 26 to spend some focused time on these two issues. Feedback was given to the department on things to consider as part of the workshop. For example, what would the classification system look like if the existing system was just adjusted to include bull trout and warm water species. It was also suggested that a real world example be given. The workshop is likely to focus on use-based systems in the morning and bull trout in the afternoon. If you have any other ideas regarding the workshop, please contact Ann Butler at 360-407-6480.
6. Dave Peeler handed out the department's procedure for dealing with the Talent irrigation case and its application to permitting for aquatic pesticides. The handout is located at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/partnership/05_17_01/index.html.